

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 remain pending in the above-referenced application and are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese references to Asano in view of Goto. Asano discloses a piezoelectric actuator containing an elastomeric coating. This coating comprises aluminum nitride as a filler but not the use of aluminum dioxide, titanium dioxide, boron nitride, silicium carbide, or silicium dioxide.

Goto shows a piezoelectric actor covered by a glass layer made of silicium dioxide. Someone skilled in the art knows that a glass layer represents a completely different system compared with an elastomeric layer. Therefore, there is no motivation to use the silicon dioxide of the glass layer in Goto as a filler in the elastomeric layer of Asano. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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